Blessed Virgin of CZESTOCHOWA

THE STORY OF OUR LADY, Queen of Catholic Action

THE MOST FAMOUS SHRINE IN POLAND IS THE SHRINE OF THE BLACK MADONNA. THE BLACK MADONNA IS A PAINTING OF OUR LADY. THIS OLD, OLD LEGEND TELLS HOW THE PAINTING WAS BROUGHT TO POLAND.

ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, THE PICTURE WAS MADE BY ST. LUKE.

FOR A LONG TIME THE PICTURE WAS LOST. THEN, IN THE YEAR 326, ST. HELEN WENT TO JERUSALEM TO SEARCH FOR THE TRUE CROSS.

SHE FOUND THE CROSS. SHE ALSO FOUND THE PICTURE OF OUR LADY.

ST. HELEN GAVE THE PICTURE TO HER SON, CONSTANTINE THE GREAT.

I SHALL BUILD A SHRINE FOR THE PICTURE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

WONDERFUL THINGS TOOK PLACE AT THE SHRINE. ONE TIME THE SARACENS ATTACKED CONSTANTINOPLE. THE PAINTING WAS CARRIED TO THE TOP OF THE CITY WALLS.

LOOK, THE SARACENS ARE FLEEING!

OUR LADY HAS SAVED THE CITY.

MANY YEARS LATER THE EMPEROR CHARLEMAGNE VISITED CONSTANTINOPLE.

HERE ARE ALL THE TREASURES OF THE CITY. YOU MAY HAVE WHATEVER YOU DESIRE.

CHARLEMAGNE TOOK ONLY THE PICTURE OF OUR LADY.

BUT HE DID NOT KEEP THE PAINTING VERY LONG. ONE DAY...

YOU HAVE SERVED ME FAITHFULLY FOR MANY YEARS, PRINCE LEO. THE PAINTING IS YOURS.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church

6 MAPLE STREET
NEW CASTLE, PA. 16101

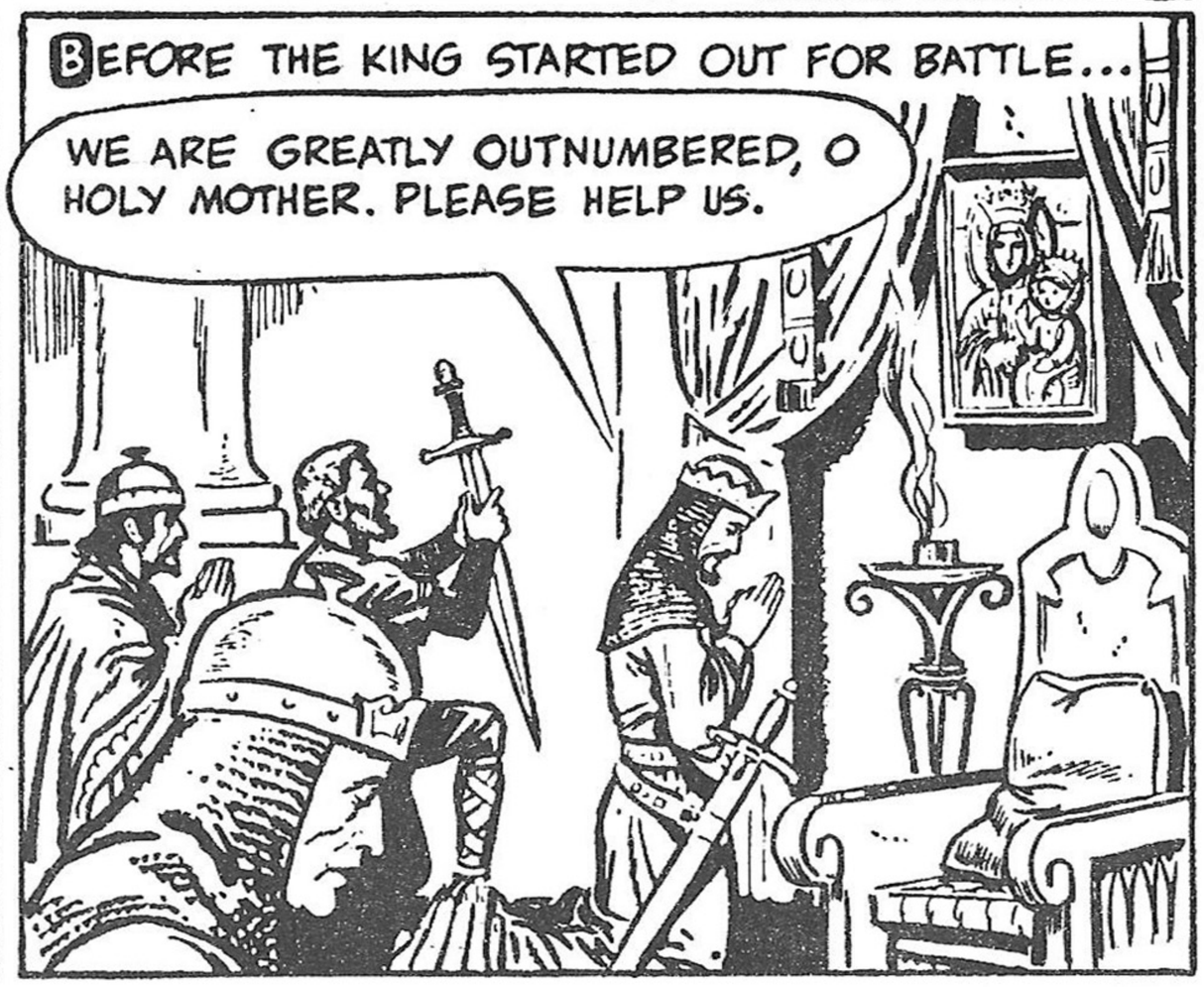
Blessed Virgin of CZESTOCHOWA

THE STORY OF OUR LADY, Queen of Catholic Action

THE EMPEROR CHARLEMAGNE GAVE THE PAINTING TO PRINCE LEO OF RUTHENIA. IT REMAINED AT THE ROYAL PALACE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. THEN...

...ENEMY TROOPS POURED INTO THE COUNTRY.

BEFORE THE KING STARTED OUT FOR BATTLE...



THE KING'S PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED. A HEAVY DARKNESS FELL UPON THE ENEMY.

IN THE CONFUSION THEY KILLED THOUSANDS OF THEIR OWN MEN. THE KING GATHERED HIS LITTLE ARMY AND DEFEATED THE ENEMY.

LATER THE KING HAD A DREAM.

THE KING TOOK THE PICTURE THERE AT ONCE. HE LEFT IT WITH A GROUP OF MONKS CALLED THE PAULITE FATHERS.

THE MONKS BUILT A SHRINE FOR THE PAINTING AT A PLACE CALLED CZESTOCHOWA (*Sah CHAN STAW HAW VAH*). MANY WONDERFUL HAPPENINGS TOOK PLACE. SOON IT BECAME THE MOST FAMOUS SHRINE IN POLAND.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church

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NEW CASTLE, PA. 16101

Blessed Virgin of CZESTOCHOWA

THE STORY OF OUR LADY, Queen of Catholic Action

THE PAULITE FATHERS BUILT A SHRINE FOR THE PAINTING AT A PLACE CALLED CZESTOCHOWA (*Say CHAN STAW HAW VAH*). ONE TIME BANDITS BROKE INTO THE SHRINE. THEY TRIED TO CARRY AWAY THE PICTURE.

THE WAGON WON'T MOVE!

ONE OF THE BANDITS BECAME ANGRY. HE THREW THE PAINTING ON THE GROUND. TWICE HE SLASHED IT WITH HIS SWORD. THE THIRD TIME...

HE IS DEAD!

WHEN THE BANDITS SAW THIS, THEY FLED IN TERROR.

THE PAINTING WAS RETURNED TO ITS PLACE OF HONOR. THEN ONE NIGHT THE SHRINE CAUGHT FIRE. THE NEXT MORNING...

EVERYTHING IS DESTROYED EXCEPT THE PAINTING.

BUT THE SMOKE AND FLAMES HAD DARKENED THE PICTURE. FROM THAT DAY ON IT WAS KNOWN AS THE BLACK MADONNA.

THE MOST FAMOUS HAPPENING WAS STILL TO COME. IN THE YEAR 1655 ENEMY SOLDIERS AGAIN INVADED POLAND.

SOON ALL POLAND WAS CONQUERED – EXCEPT THE SHRINE OF THE BLACK MADONNA.

WE WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH TO PROTECT OUR LADY FROM HARM.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church

6 MAPLE STREET
NEW CASTLE, PA. 16101

Blessed Virgin of CZESTOCHOWA

THE STORY OF OUR LADY, Queen of Catholic Action

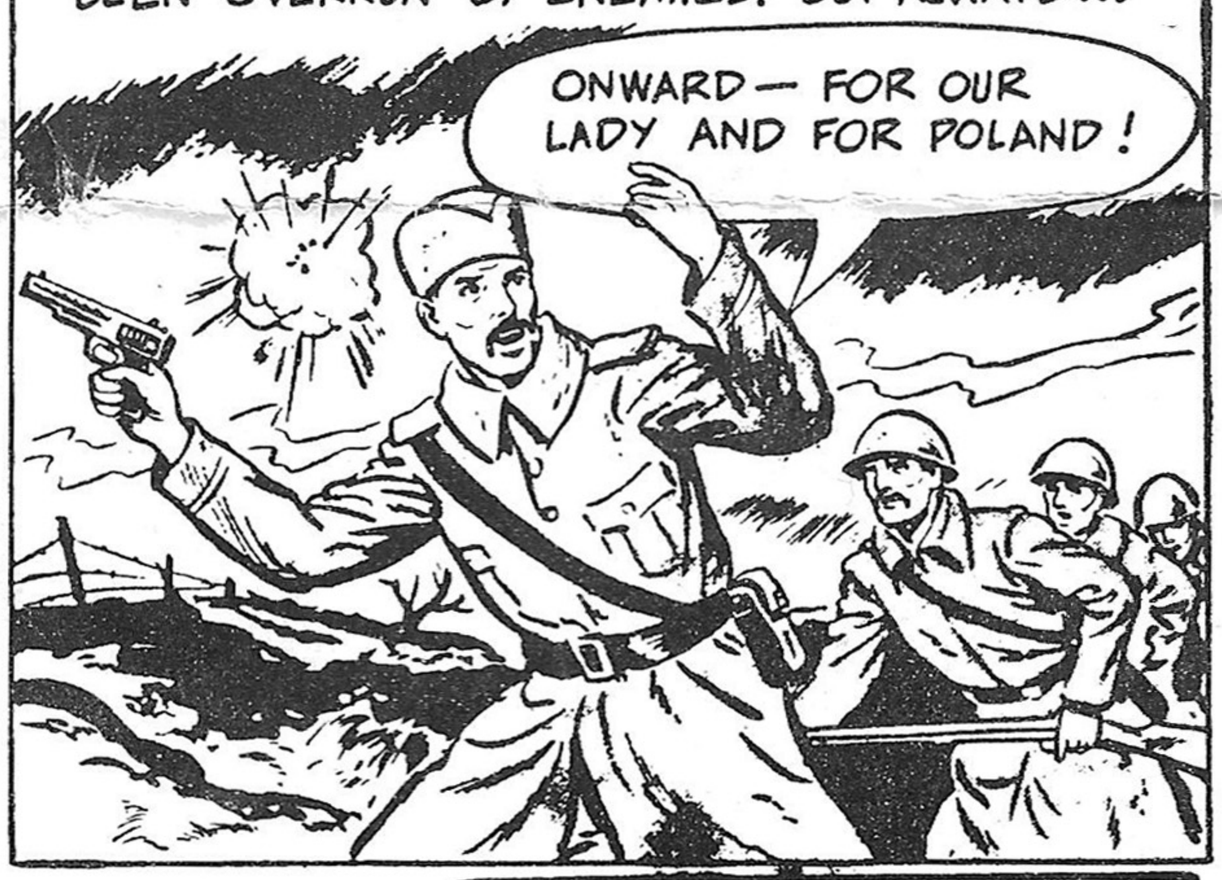
IN THE YEAR 1655 ENEMY SOLDIERS CONQUERED ALL OF POLAND EXCEPT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA (*Say CHAN STAW HAW VAN*). A SMALL GROUP OF MONKS AND SOLDIERS HAD GATHERED TO DEFEND THE SHRINE.

FOR 40 DAYS THE BRAVE LITTLE BAND OF MEN HELD OFF THE HUGE ARMY. THEN...

THIS WONDERFUL VICTORY GAVE THE PEOPLE OF POLAND NEW COURAGE. THEY DROVE THE ENEMY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. THEN THE KING...

I HEREBY PLACE POLAND UNDER THE PROTECTION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER. FROM NOW ON OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE QUEEN OF THE CROWN OF POLAND.

THE PEOPLE OF POLAND HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THIS PROMISE. MANY TIMES THEIR LAND HAS BEEN OVERRUN BY ENEMIES. BUT ALWAYS...



TODAY POLAND IS RULED BY COMMUNISTS. MORE THAN 1,000 PRIESTS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PRISON.

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HUNDREDS OF SISTERS AND BROTHERS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR SCHOOLS.

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MORE THAN 50 PRIESTS AND HUNDREDS OF CATHOLIC MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH.

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BUT THE PEOPLE OF POLAND HAVE NEVER STOPPED PRAYING TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER. WE TOO SHOULD PRAY TO OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA ~ THE BLACK MADONNA ~ THAT POLAND MAY SOON BE FREE AGAIN. (The End)

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